

School. She became the first in her family to go to college. Her roots in DPS span three generations. Her mother, Rita Cordova, attended Denver's Franklin and Greenlee elementary schools, Baker Junior High School, and West High School, before beginning a career as an office professional at Denver's Lake Junior High and then her alma mater, West. Both of Susana and Eric's children, Alex and Carmen, are DPS graduates.

Public education is one generation's commitment of equity, freedom, and prosperity to the generation that follows. Susana's story teaches us what happens when we follow through. Mothers and fathers pass the benefits forward to their daughters and sons. At a community meeting held before she was selected by the Denver Board of Education to become superintendent, she described the promise of public education like this:

It gave me access and opportunity to a world that didn't exist in my neighborhood. My mother grew up in Denver and went to the Denver public schools, as well. She didn't have access to the kinds of classes I had access to. It leveled the playing field for minority kids like me.

Public education is not a promise that keeps itself. Susana's career in DPS teaches us how much work is needed to make sure we don't drop the ball. We keep the promise one student and one classroom at a time. It takes teachers, principals and district leaders, families, and community members, each willing, like Susana, to do their part with the patience and diligence they would wish for their own child.●

TRIBUTE TO BILL RANEY

● **Ms. CAPITO.** Mr. President, I rise to recognize Bill Raney, a dedicated West Virginian, who is retiring after serving 28 years as president and chief executive officer of the West Virginia Coal Association.

Bill knows the value of coal—to our Appalachian communities, where it puts food on the table; to our State, where it provides tax revenues to pave our roads and fund our schools; and to our Nation, where it has helped power the greatest economic engine the world has ever known for more than a century. He also appreciates the challenges and dangers inherent in producing the black gold that creates all that well-being, starting his career working in public service to protect our miners.

Starting in 1970, Bill—a graduate of his beloved West Virginia University—became familiarized with the coal industry working as a surface mine inspector for the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources Division of Reclamation. In recognition of his service, he was later promoted to assistant chief of that division. Moving to the private sector, Bill then served as vice president of the West Virginia Mining & Reclamation Association from 1977, until being named president

of the West Virginia Coal Association in 1992. When the two organizations merged in 2000, he remained president of the newly formed organization, representing the whole of West Virginia's coal industry.

Bill held these leadership positions serving the hard-working coal miners of West Virginia, while also serving his country in the West Virginia Army National Guard. During his time with the Guard, he served in various leadership roles, including commander of the 1092nd Combat Engineer Battalion, commander of the 111th Engineer Group, and special assistant to the Adjutant General at the rank of colonel. Following his personal service, Bill has continued advocating on behalf of our guardsmen as president of the West Virginia National Guard Association and chairman of the West Virginia National Guard Foundation.

Bill's participation in civic organizations extends far beyond the military and the coal industry, as he has served as both chairman and as a current board member of the West Virginia Business & Industry Council; current board member of the West Virginia Youth Leadership Association's Youth in Government Program, former chairman and current board member of the West Virginia Kids Count Fund; advisory member of the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection Advisory Committee; member of the West Virginia University School of Engineering Mining Program Visiting Committee; as an elder at the First Presbyterian Church in Charleston; and volunteering his time with several other organizations. Bill has left an indelible legacy through his commitment to our State and our Nation's military, impacts that will be felt throughout and beyond the coalfields.

Bill Raney's passion for the coal industry and the improvement of the State has earned him numerous honors and awards over the course of his distinguished career. This includes but is not limited to the Distinguished West Virginian Award, the WVU Alumni Association's Most Loyal Alumni Award, the National Multiple Sclerosis Association's Hope Award, and the Lewis McManus Service Award given by the West Virginia Youth in Government Program. Mr. Raney has also been inducted into the West Virginia Coal Hall of Fame and the First Tee Hall of Fame.

It has been an honor to know and work with Bill during his distinguished tenure representing the coal industry and several esteemed civic organizations in West Virginia. He has been a great ally, resource, and friend to me over the years, and I will be forever grateful for his service. I wish him and his wife Pam many years of joy in this new phase of life. It is truly an honor to recognize and congratulate my friend Bill Raney on his well-deserved retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO PETE SFERRAZZA

● **Ms. CORTEZ MASTO.** Mr. President, today I am honored to recognize former Reno mayor and justice of the peace for the Reno Justice Court, Pete Sferrazza, who retired in October of this year.

Mr. Sferrazza has a long history of public service to the great State of Nevada. He served as Reno's mayor from 1981 until 1995, an unprecedented length of service, and served as a judge on the Reno Justice Court from 2008 until his retirement earlier this year. In the intervening years, Mr. Sferrazza served as county commissioner for Washoe County, from 1998 to 2007.

During his time as mayor and throughout his life of public service, Mr. Sferrazza focused on advancing labor rights and economic prosperity, while promoting the beauty of the Reno community. As mayor, he led the establishment of the City of Reno Arts Commission, as well as the creation of Reno's Victim Advocate Program, which has served as a model for the rest of the State. Mr. Sferrazza was also responsible for helping to preserve the Mt. Rose Wilderness and supporting the iconic Truckee River Walk.

In a time of seemingly stark political divide, Mr. Sferrazza is a shining example of what an elected official can and should be. As county commissioner, he approved a number of expansions of Reno's downtown and helped to consolidate various local emergency services, increasing efficiency and reducing costs. Finally, during his time on the Reno Justice Court, Mr. Sferrazza was elected by his colleagues as president of the American Judges Association, the largest judges' association in the United States. His willingness and desire to help everyone in his community have been crucial to the city's development, especially as the city continues to grow into the 21st century.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Pete Sferrazza as he retires after decades of serving the city of Reno, Washoe County, and the State of Nevada in so many ways. His time in public office has made the Reno-Sparks community stronger and more inclusive for everyone, and I want to thank him for his service and lifelong commitment to leaving the Truckee Meadows a better place than he found it. ●

TRIBUTE TO DOUG MARTENS

● **Mr. DAINES.** Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Doug Martens of Rosebud County for his years of service to his community and being elected to serve as president of the Montana Association of Counties.

Doug raised his family in Montana and is a proud husband, father, and grandfather. Before serving 10 years as a commissioner in Rosebud County, Doug was a fire warden and president of the Montana Fire Wardens Association. Doug is a dedicated public servant, and at the same time, he runs his